

NEW JERSEY COLLEGES:



Assembly Line Techniques Mesh Intricate Schedules of Multipurpose Classrooms in Scattered Buildings for 14 Hours a Day at the Newark Colleges of Rutgers University

By JOHN T. CUNNINGHAM

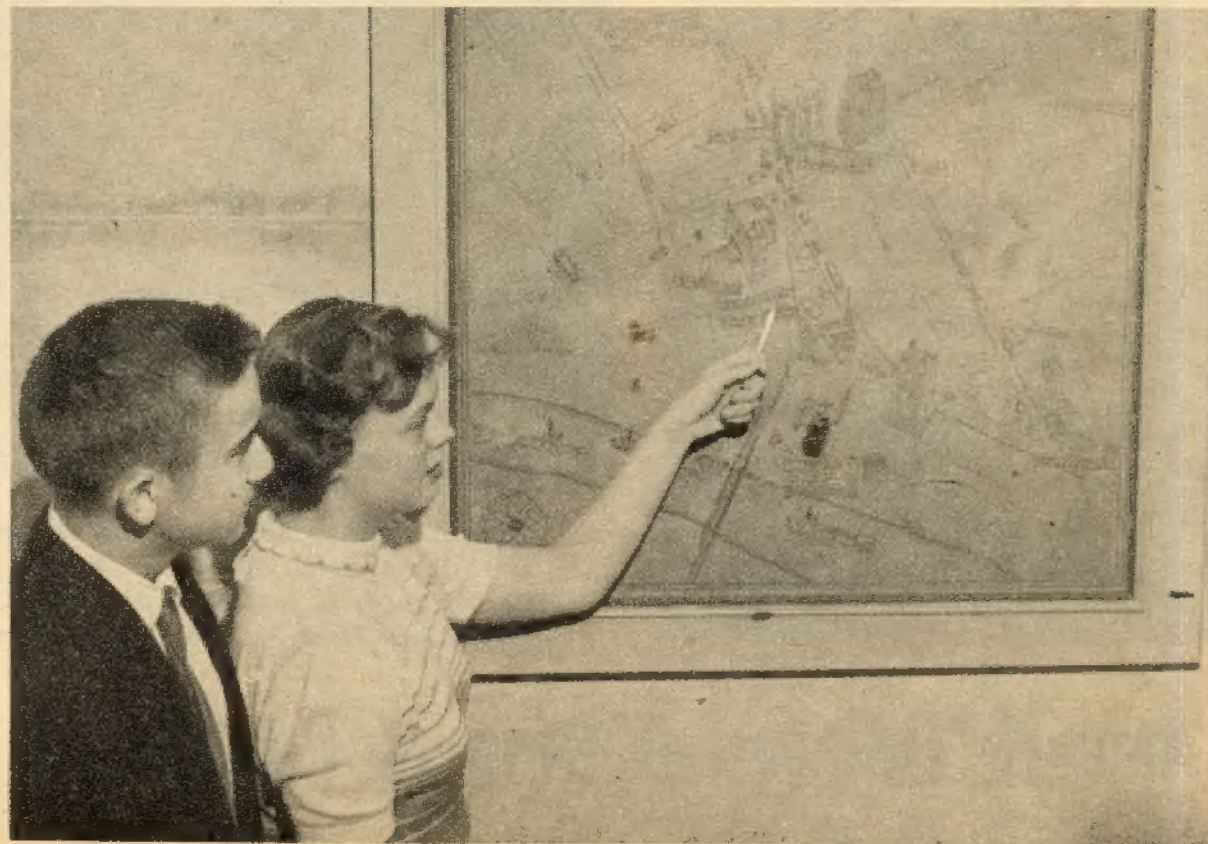
THEORETICALLY (at least the student handbook says so) they lift their voices to harmonize the old, old words: "On the banks of the Old Raritan, my boys, where Old Rutgers evermore shall stand . . ." If the words seem at times a little strained, blame it on the fact that these voices rise not on the Old Raritan's banks but on the banks of the Old Passaic.

These are the voices of some 5,700 full-time and part-time students of the Newark Colleges of Rutgers University. The big scarlet "R" has been in Newark since 1946, when Rutgers merged the former University of Newark into the State University. Sometimes the Old Raritan seems a far distance away, but that's the way it is with the uptown branch of a down-state university.

If this Rutgers branch existed in a
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This is the eleventh of a series of articles which not only describe New Jersey's colleges and universities, but tell the story of the growth and traditions of individual colleges within the state, picture their roles in modern education and explains how they plan to meet what has been called "an impending tide of students." Next Sunday: Rider College.

On the Banks of the Old Passaic



Partial view of map studied by students Dolores Langley, Orange, and John Sluk, Iselin, shows location of schools which made up the University of Newark at time of merger. The "barn," a converted Ballantine estate stable at 100 Plane St., where law classes are held, appears below in background. Upper left: Entrance to remodeled brewery at 40 Rector St., where main offices are located.





Other buildings in sprawling campus of Newark-Rutgers are these two old mansions at 33-37 Washington St., which will be replaced by a new law center. Left: The College of Pharmacy at 1 Lincoln Ave., with the Physical Science building (right) at 51 Rector St.



Newark Colleges of Rutgers University

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suburban town a student enrollment of more than 5,000 would make it a major university. Yet in Newark this university—and its five separate colleges—make Newark-Rutgers exactly that—is submerged in the tempo of a fast-paced city. City colleges usually suffer this obscurity.

Paradoxically, an urban institution may be submerged by the city, but it can't live without the city. The city is its reason for being. Its students mirror the cosmopolitan complexity of the people, its courses meet the needs of the city, its undergraduates attend college in most instances only because they can readily find work in the city to finance their way or can live at home to save expenses.

THE destiny of Newark-Rutgers therefore is tied intimately to the fortunes of the "new and bigger" Newark now excitingly in the air. The destiny of Newark-Rutgers is also tied to Rutgers University and its future as the state university. Until a clear-cut overall state university future is drawn—and the current reorganization of the board of trustees does have optimistic overtones—then Newark-Rutgers can't be sure of tomorrow either.

Few would gainsay that alliance of the old Newark University with Rutgers (and the state) benefited the Newark Colleges. For one thing, it relieved the local colleges of ever-plaguing annual deficits. For another thing, it gave Newark graduates the prestige of a Rutgers degree; they like that sheepskin with its nationally recognized educational connotations.

State money has helped raise faculty salaries in Newark to a respectable level. Respectable salaries have permitted continuous upgrading of

faculty stature. State money in the past decade has helped to expand greatly the physical facilities in Newark. Newark Colleges of Rutgers University is a sound example of higher education pitched to urban population needs; state money has been highly useful.

Try to understand Newark Colleges by first being somewhat confused. Think of five distinct colleges in the city—arts and science, business, pharmacy, law and University College. Think of day classes and evening classes, with an ingenious classroom scheduling arrangement making classrooms do at least double duty from 8:30 a.m. until 10:20 p.m. A single classroom may hour by hour house a history course, a psychology course, an accounting course and so on for 14 hours. Few Newark classrooms are reserved for one luxurious use.

"There is a saying that Newark-Rutgers seats never grow cold," says one college leader. Maintenance crews work around the clock, since most classrooms must be cleaned between 10:20 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. Only meticulous scheduling can keep the students on time without chaos.

NEWARK-RUTGERS has no neat campus, revolving about an "Old Queens" or "Old Nassau," or old anything else. Perhaps the main building could be called "Old Brew" because the main offices are located in the huge former ale brewery of P. Ballantine & Sons at 40 Rector St. Across the street, being converted into laboratories, is a former Marlin razor blade factory.

Westward on Rector St. is the way to a major part of the campus around Washington Park. Symbolically, the western edge of Rector St. is hedged

in on the one side by old Trinity Church (the colonial look) and on the other by the ultramodern YM-YWCA (start of the Newark "new" look). An urban college must ever be tied to the old, attuned to the new.

Washington Park campus has buildings as varied in origin as those in Rector St. The main classroom building at 18 Washington Pl. is the former home of the Eagle Fire Insurance Co. (and a handsome building it is). Nearby at 53 Washington St. is Newark-Rutgers' "new" building—the old YWCA building. Up the street, adjacent to Newark Museum, are two century-old buildings housing the law school library and offices. Behind these is the "barn," a converted Ballantine estate stable where law classes are held.

Is there nothing at Newark-Rutgers built originally for academic use? Not downtown, but a good long bus hop away in North Newark is the College of Pharmacy building, finished in 1926. Here in this training ground for future pharmacists the intertwined Newark-Rutgers story began in 1927.

STUDENTS who entered the independent New Jersey College of Pharmacy in 1926 found themselves a year later attending Rutgers College of Pharmacy. Absorption by Rutgers of the then 34-year-old college (founded 1892) didn't change things materially at 1 Lincoln Ave., from a student viewpoint. Students went on filling prescription exercises without visible interference from Rutgers. They had their own athletic teams (most of them good enough to be Pharmacy League champions) and maintained their old traditions.

Downtown, meanwhile, several things had been happening in Newark's higher educational pattern. Richard D. Currier, New York attorney, founded New Jersey Law School in 1908—the first successful law school

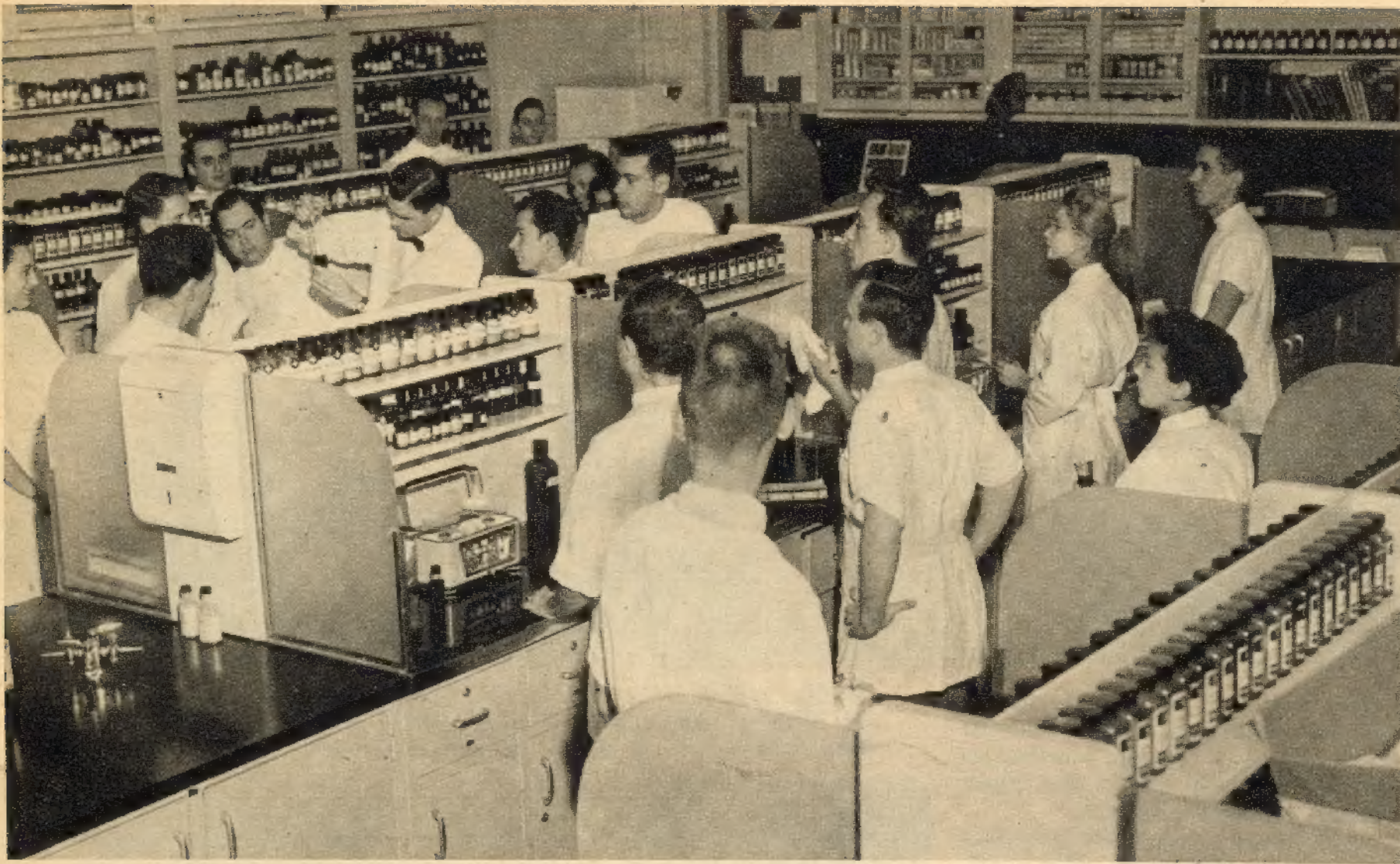
in the state's history. Mr. Currier owned the school outright, and both he and his college prospered, particularly in 1926 when 2,335 prospective lawyers enrolled to beat a threat, that New Jersey would require two years instead of one year of prelegal training.

Then in 1929 Mr. Currier founded Seth Boyden School of Business, a four-year degree-granting institution. The first class had 112 students; by 1931, 556 students were enrolled. In 1930 Dana College, an outgrowth of New Jersey Law School's prelegal division, became a four-year college. All three of these schools—New Jersey Law, Seth Boyden and Dana—moved in 1930 to the erstwhile Ballantine ale house at 40 Rector St.

Paralleling growth of what might be called the "Currier group" was the rise of another Newark system of higher education. This started in 1909 when a group of Newark business and industrial leaders founded Newark Institute of Arts and Sciences "to provide university courses for the busy people of New Jersey." Foremost professors from New York University did most of the teaching for decades.

SOME lawyers, concerned about the huge influx of students at New Jersey Law School in 1926, that year founded Mercer Beasley School of Law, named to honor the Mercer Beasley who had been New Jersey chief justice from 1864 to 1897.

Newark Institute of Arts and Sciences and Mercer Beasley closed ranks in the deep depression and in a 1934 merger adopted the lofty name of University of Newark with classrooms at 17 Academy St. Inevitably Academy St. and Rector St. also drew closer, huddling together in the economic frigidity of the depression, and in 1936 all of the divergent elements came together. One side gave the name—



Scene in dispensing laboratory at Pharmacy College where students learn techniques of filling prescriptions to exact specifications. BELOW: At work in lab are students in four-year nurse program. B.S. degree qualifies graduates for registered nurse examinations.



University of Newark; the other side gave the home, the old brewery at 40 Rector St., where all classes were held.

The University of Newark earned a good academic reputation. That fact should never be forgotten; it didn't take a merger with Rutgers to bring academic distinction to Newark. Often, sadly enough, an academic reputation can't be equated with a balanced budget, and from 1936 throughout World War II the University of Newark each year turned up deficits ranging from \$20,000 to \$40,000.

By springtime 1946, the surge of education-conscious GIs made Rutgers University discuss the necessity of a state university center in Newark. Ever-recurring deficits made the University of Newark amenable to a merger, and in April 1946 the banks

of the Old Raritan widened all the way back to the tidewaters of the Passaic.

VETERANS found the newly widened bank to their liking and at one time as many as 3,500 full-time day students crowded into Newark-Rutgers. Thousands more came at night and the tradition of "never a cold seat" became firmly established.

Newark-Rutgers needed room. The ex-Ballantine brewery—by then long since neatly refaced with black marble over the entrances and with the interior in collegiate Tudor style—couldn't contain the bulge. Law classes moved to the two old mansions and the ex-Ballantine stable on Washington St. Business classes moved to the former Eagle Fire Insurance Co. build-

ing. Churches and lodges rented space to the colleges for classroom use.

Administrators learned much through the GI bulge; the lessons are still valid. Newark-Rutgers leaders picked up the techniques of scheduling everything to permit maximum use of facilities. They solved the problem of meshing class times in Washington Park area with class times in Rector St., a good long sprint in the 10-minute interval between class sessions—even when traffic and weather are in the student's favor.

They also learned that a city has many higher educational advantages. Newark Museum and Newark Library, two of the finest such institutions in the country, offer research facilities unequalled on most college campuses. Various city gymnasiums could be rented for physical education programs and varsity sports. The city's businesses and industries and law courts—even the crowded streets—provide laboratory-experiences.

COLLEGE leaders have learned that Newark-Rutgers can be attended by students who couldn't possibly enter a college where annual expenses including room and board total upward of \$1,500. Newark-Rutgers, like most urban colleges, is a place where a young man or young woman can live home and still get a college education. It is a place where young ambition can find a daytime job with evenings free for college (or an evening job with daytime free). Today nearly 90 per cent of all Newark-Rutgers students hold part-time or full-time jobs.

This isn't all new knowledge. The founders of Newark's colleges knew most of these things 45 years ago. As one of the first trustees recalls: "We knew that those young people could never have gone to college without an opportunity close by in the city." Until a city college learns that a shaded campus and a stadium alone

do not an education make, then the college is not of age.

The heart of Newark-Rutgers today is the College of Arts and Sciences, just as it is the heart of nearly any university undergraduate program. More than half of the 1,600 full-time day students are in Arts and Sciences. Most of the 1,600 degree-seeking students in the evening University College are pursuing a liberal arts course.

Still-evolving plans are making the College of Arts and Sciences more and more the core of the Newark-Rutgers program, and this in no way minimizes the importance of the School of Business Administration, the School of Law and the College of Pharmacy. Overlapping courses (say in English or psychology or economics) were once given in all the schools. Now all are consolidated in the College of Arts and Sciences, permitting the specialized schools to concentrate attention in their own particularized areas.

THE specialized colleges of law, business administration and pharmacy must have independence to develop academic programs. Their success in a way depends upon their ability to free themselves of central administrative problems and to concentrate on programs of study.

Without careful administrative functioning the average student and faculty member at Newark-Rutgers might be overwhelmed by the scattered buildings, multipurpose classrooms, the city traffic, the intricacy of class schedules.

Take the matter of full use of classrooms, for example. "We consider we have merely a block of classrooms, not this building or that building," says Arthur S. Platt, secretary of the Newark Colleges. "Our students see no confusion in their schedules. They know they have to attend a certain class in a certain building at a certain hour. To them the fact that a graduate class in education is followed by a freshman English class and that by a graduate business course is no cause for concern. It should not be; this is an administrative problem."

Freedom from detail will help each of the individual colleges to grow, and immediately ahead is a period of expansion for the law school. This spring the two old mansions where the law library and other offices are located will be razed to make room for a bright new law center.

NEWARK'S law school has had a splendid reputation through the years. More than 4,500 lawyers, the preponderance of whom are practicing in New Jersey, have earned their degrees at Newark-Rutgers and its predecessor law schools. Certainly there is no denying that facilities have always been inadequate; the chief tribute to this city law education is not that it made available handsome collegiate surroundings but that it provided opportunity. The new law center will supply both.

The School of Business Administration has excellent quarters in the building at 18 Washington Pl., which also houses a handsome student lounge and a cafeteria. Uptown the

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NEWARK-RUTGERS

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College of Pharmacy is well located in its 30-year-old structure, recently remodeled and refurbished to make it fully modern. The physical plant, therefore, is reasonably adequate—for the present relative lull in student enrollment.

Occasionally there have been suggestions that schools of law or business or pharmacy—or all three—might be better relocated on the New Brunswick campus. Whether the suggestions have blown upward from the Raritan or downward from the Passaic is a matter of conjecture, but for every suggestion there is a strong group determined to keep these schools in Newark where they originated.

THERE once was talk that the law center would go to New Brunswick; the new law center has stilled that proposition. There currently are plans to move the College of Pharmacy to New Brunswick to permit use of Rutgers laboratory facilities. Sometimes there is an unofficial thought that the school of business administration would fare better beside the quiet rippling of the Old Raritan.

Excepting the College of Pharmacy, the schools probably won't move. For one thing, any movement of these old schools from the place of their origin and the scene of past successes would stir serious opposition. For another thing, those who would move the schools solely for reasons of academic quietude forget the innumerable things to be learned in a bustling city.

These are some of the facets of the principal urban branch of the state university. Rutgers has a similar branch at Camden, but the total student body there is only about one-fifth that of Newark. Indeed, nearly one-third of the entire Rutgers enrollment is in Newark. The Rutgers-Newark College Council, serving as an advisory group, has estimated that by 1965 the Newark enrollment will reach 11,000. Recently the council indicated what that doubled enrollment will entail in the way of new space.

The council estimated that by 1960 Newark Colleges will need 60 more classrooms, 19 more science laboratories, 68 more faculty offices and space for 45 to 50 additional administrative offices. Significantly, the council added: "These short-term requirements will no sooner be met than even more pressing needs will be clamoring for solution."

Why not take a bold approach, the council asked the Rutgers administration in New Brunswick? Why not "build from the ground up" the buildings, campus and necessary facilities? The council proposed a tract bounded by High, Plane, Warren and Central streets or avenues, where the new campus would replace a present slum area.

AS an alternative, the council suggested expansion of the present Washington Park-Rector St. areas, with science buildings and laboratories cen-

tered in Rector St. and classrooms and administrative facilities centered around the park. Present practical indications are that this is the future pattern of Newark-Rutgers.

Suggestions for any state university development must await state funds; these Newark proposals for a relocated campus within the city are not necessarily stirring any state pulses. Nevertheless, Newark-Rutgers administrators and council members feel an expanded and completely refurbished college plant is intimately attuned to the current development of a better Newark.

A visitor to Newark-Rutgers senses a lack of a unity of spirit, such as that which typifies the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) in its relationship with the parent University of California. No such decentralization has as yet been achieved in the relationship between Newark-Rutgers and parent Rutgers at New Brunswick.

THE very name "Newark Colleges of Rutgers University" is awkward, particularly in athletics. Hank Bodner, head of athletics at Newark-Rutgers, has worked under unbelievably poor conditions for a branch of a state university. One year he practiced his varsity basketball squad at 6 a.m. on a borrowed court and now he still practices or plays in a variety of gymnasiums. Between times he runs an intramural program in rented facilities. Sometimes the problem of whether to replace or keep a football coach on the banks of the Raritan seems slight in comparison.

Orientation to the banks of the Old Raritan is not easy to achieve. It seems awkward—at the very best—to expect Newark students to sing the old New Brunswick songs. The mere fact that Newark students get free tickets to football games in New Brunswick doesn't make it any easier for them to swallow their pride when their team plays the New Brunswick team and sports writers talk about Rutgers playing its "little brother."

Many students at Newark-Rutgers don't particularly care about such mundane matters, one way or the other, because students at an urban institution are usually somewhat more

curriculum-minded than students on a traditional campus. Many work hard for their education; it seems of minor importance to those who work nights so they can go to school in the daytime whether Newark-Rutgers is the "little brother." Often the first time they even think of Rutgers is when they go down to New Brunswick to pick up their degrees at commencement time.

STUDENT organizations at Newark-Rutgers tend to be less social in nature than those on suburban or rural campuses. Hard-working students often tie in their extra-classroom activities with specific classroom interests. They run business conferences with the same zest that some undergraduates reserve for a bonfire and rally the night before the big game. That in no way means there is not a lot of student fun at Newark-Rutgers; it merely means that often the fun isn't quickly obvious.

The fact that decentralization is yet to be achieved at Newark quite probably can be traced to the fact that less than a decade has passed since the merger with Rutgers. It takes time to

decentralize, and it takes time to build local traditions, particularly when the decade has been spent raising salaries, encouraging an upgrading of the faculty and gaining additional facilities for the expanding institution.

Dr. Lewis Webster Jones, Rutgers president, declares urban institutions such as Newark Colleges "have certain inherent advantages in their very location and method of operation which will be reflected in their increasing importance to our overall educational pattern." He adds: "Urban institutions tend to be rid of the monastic character which can become a handicap to the traditionally situated college or university. Coupling the workaday world with the educational process is in fact in the great tradition of the European universities."

Actually much of the exciting future of higher education may well rest in urban institutions such as Newark-Rutgers and the urban branches of Seton Hall University. Here is where the seats never grow cold, where the pace allows no room for ivy towers, where the demands of a city's youth can't be stilled.



Student center at 18 Washington Pl., which also houses the School of Business Administration and cafeteria. BELOW: John Cotton Dana Library at 40 Rector St. honors Newark's famous librarian.

